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CYPRUS

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Cypriots Discuss Local Water Issues with American, International Experts



Thanks to a small grant from USAID's SAVE project, the first conference on Global Water Efficiency—which took place November 27-28th in

Limassol—welcomed the participation of several Turkish Cypriot experts as well as Mary Ann Dickinson, an American expert in water efficiency. The conference and the accompanying trade show brought people together from around the globe to explore and debate issues related to water efficiency—a worldwide issue, but one of huge significance to Cypriots who share a chronic and worsening water shortage. International experts and academics presented their research, best practices and case studies, while practitioners from the water industry shared their experience and knowledge. Keynote speakers addressed the critical issues of water governance and long-term sustainability. Panel sessions focused on the way forward in achieving efficient water management from production to supply through to distribution. A session on European Union-funded research projects related to water and associated technologies also gave participants additional insights into cutting-edge issues in regional water management.



NGOs and Public Sector Unite to “Serve Citizens”

Breaking new ground in Cyprus, members of the Planning Bureau, the Council of Europe's Expert Council on NGO Law and legal experts from throughout Europe were part of an ACT-funded conference focused on reforming the legal and regulatory framework for Cypriot NGOs. This level of public-private dialogue on this critical European priority is significant, particularly as Cypriot NGOs strive to be an effective part of the peace process. The “Serving the Citizen: Promoting NGO-Public Sector Partnership” conference was organized by the NGO Support Center and showcased case studies from Cyprus, promoted learning and dialogue between civil society and the Cypriot government, and shared international and European best practice experiences. The conference addressed topics including public benefit status and NGO accountability, good practices in internal governance, governmental funding for civil society development, and several other topics of great interest to Cypriot NGOs, who struggle to match international standards in these areas. Conference workshops focused on public financing mechanisms of NGOs and registering of associations, foundations, clubs and non-profit companies.

The mission of USAID/Cyprus is to encourage cooperation between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot individuals and organizations to reduce tensions and promote a climate that will foster reconciliation and a durable peace settlement.

Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises



With the assistance of a visiting expert consultant, the Agribusiness Team initiated a field-based training program for caper growers focused on pruning and irrigation. A workshop focused on market conditions was organized for producers in cultivating passion fruit as a high-priced, low-water alternative crop. The Team's work with artichoke, potato and dairy producers continues and the sixth issue of AgriNews was finalized for publication. In order to promote informed dialogue on Green Line trade issues, the Trade Team distributed an analysis of October 2008 Green Line trade statistics.



Resource Efficiency Achievement Project

REAP assisted the EPA and the TC electricity utility prepare and deliver a presentation to local students on global warming, renewable energy and energy efficiency. The team also assisted in the preparation of an energy efficiency public awareness campaign, including a televised program on November 25th.

Capacity Development and Training

CADET is underway with Chief of Party Patrick Coughlin organizing on-island logistical and other arrangements. Assisted by a visiting assessment expert, the local team has been meeting with stakeholders in various sectors and is beginning to formulate a plan of priority training actions for the coming six months.

Action for Cooperation and Trust



The ACT-supported Cypriot Civil Society Strengthening Program published booklets highlighting the events and key findings of June's International Civil Society Forum. ACT also funded a conference to discuss the "Establishment of an Island-wide Waterbird Surveillance Program for the Rapid Detection of a Potential Avian Influenza Outbreak." As part of the UNDP-ACT funded project "Developing Young Researchers," the Center completed a research study on what children and teachers think about the idea of children as social researchers. The study included the views of both children and teachers who have carried out social research as part of the project and of those who have not. The report provides feedback on the use of social research with children and direction for the development of future projects.

Supporting Activities that Value the Environment

In anticipation of the December 15 deadline for the last round of small grant proposals, SAVE has been conducting several public outreach sessions and meeting with potential NGO grantees one-on-one. Work continues on the elevated walkway at the Soli mosaics site, where works should be completed by January 2009. A training session was organized on the use of soil moisture probes, which used properly can result in improved water management and field efficiency.



Before Restoration



During Restoration



After Restoration

Damaged several years ago by lightning, the Bell Tower of St. Mamas Cathedral in Morphou was a threat to public safety and a source of water drainage problems for the church itself. SAVE provided technical assistance to consolidate the mortar between the stones of the Tower, to fill the cracks with hydraulic lime, and to repair broken masonry and carvings. Collaboration with local experts and antiquities managers is part of SAVE's ongoing efforts to increase local capacity and provide relevant technical assistance while preserving valuable heritage and building confidence between the two communities.

News from Nicosia

December 2

President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met under the framework of the negotiations to discuss issues concerning foreign affairs, federal police, federal public sector and other related issues.

OUR PROJECTS

- The **Action for Cooperation and Trust (ACT)** program mainstreams the concepts of conflict resolution in over 120 projects that encourage Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to work on issues of common concern and solve problems together. Projects are currently underway in the areas of youth, education and tolerance, civil society strengthening, sustainable development and cultural heritage preservation. ACT is funded through a cooperative agreement between USAID and the UN Development Program (UNDP).
- The **Cyprus Partnership for Economic Growth (CyPEG)** includes activities that support economic growth in the Turkish Cypriot community to decrease the disparities between the communities and promote reconciliation. CyPEG is implemented by U.S. contractors under different USAID contract mechanisms.
 - The objective of the **Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE)** project is to strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of Turkish-Cypriot small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and help restructure the financial sector so that SMEs can thrive.
 - The **Resource Efficiency Achievement Program (REAP)** promotes more efficient use of water and energy by conducting audits and upgrades of representative business establishments and households. REAP also provides technical assistance to Turkish Cypriot energy experts.
 - The **Supporting Activities that Value the Environment (SAVE)** project focuses on improving (1) the competitiveness, financial status, and quality of basic services and infrastructure to more easily meet international and EU standards and (2) Turkish Cypriot capacity to manage natural and cultural resources for economic growth.
 - The **Capacity Development and Training (CADET)** project complements other USG-funded programs in Cyprus by providing capacity development and training in critical areas.